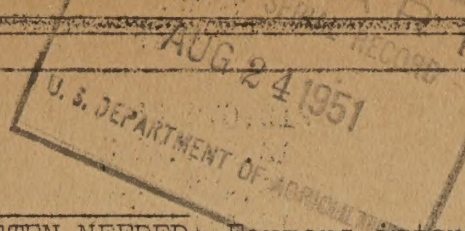


1.956
#2 Ag 827
Cop. 2



January 7, 1949

COMBINED CONSERVATION PRACTICES OFTEN NEEDED: Farmers intending to cooperate in the 1949 Agricultural Conservation (AAA) Program and who are planning conservation practices for their farms should take into consideration the usual need for combining several practices.

This advice from _____, chairman of the _____ county agricultural conservation committee, was prompted by the fact that sometimes farmers think of conservation practices as independent of each other when in most cases practices are more effective in combination.

The real purpose of providing assistance for applying lime and phosphate is the increase in growth of plants that provide protection to the soil - plants that hold the soil and help make it more productive.

Terraces, unless supported by grassed waterways, the right crops, and proper handling of the soil, may be a menace rather than a protection. They may concentrate the excess moisture and increase the damage rather than spread the water and dispose of it without damage to the soil.

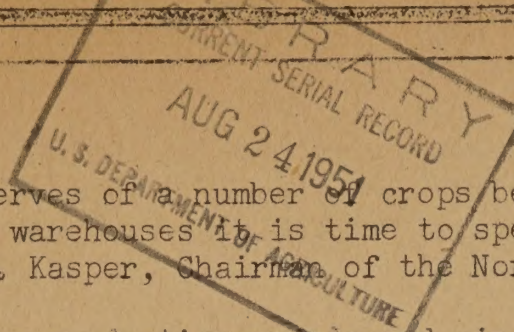
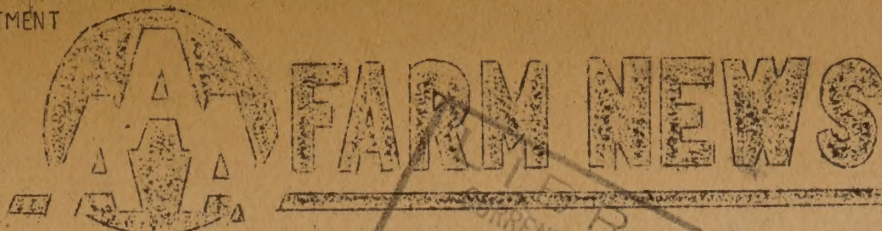
Mr. _____ advises farmers of _____ county to consider the conservation problems on their farms and then plan the combination of practices which will meet the problems. Not all the problems can be met in one year, so the most serious ones should be considered first.

He emphasized that it may be more economical and more effective to keep land productive than to restore land after it has been damaged. "Conservation is protection as well as cure."

He urged that plans be made now for conservation under the 1949 AC Program, with emphasis on a combination of practices to meet the most serious problems. Stressing farmer responsibility, he urges: "Where assistance is provided to help us carry out conservation practices, we as farmers have a responsibility to get all the conservation we can for each dollar of assistance."

(Name) _____ COUNTY FARMERS STORE GRAIN UNDER LOAN: Farmers in (Name) _____ County have taken out Government loans on (number) _____ bushels of (list crops) _____, reports (Name) _____, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee. Purchase agreements, under which the farmer -- during the month after loans are called -- may deliver his crop to the Commodity Credit Corporation at the price-support figure instead of selling it on the market, cover an additional (number) _____ bushels of the crops.

As of November 30, the national total for grains under the Government's price-support program was 342,243,122 bushels, of which 297,831,193 bushels were under loans, and 44,411,929 bushels under purchase agreements.



January 14, 1949

RESERVES IN THE SOIL: With reserves of a number of crops beginning to pile up in bins and warehouses it is time to speed up the building of reserves in the soil, says J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota PMA Committee.

As the chairman explains, wartime production and demand since the war have encouraged heavy cropping of some land that should be going back into a rotation of grass and legumes, he advised.

Although the record crop of 1948 indicates that the farmland of America is strong and that it has the productive capacity if properly handled, a check of individual farms and fields within farms shows a definite need for conservation. There is too much sheet erosion — washing away of the topsoil — too many little gullies starting and signs of breaking down of the soil structure.

Year after year of cropping — plowing, seeding and cultivating — has been destroying the humus in the soil. The granules of soil are breaking up so that wind and water can easily carry away the soil particles, and it is the best part of the soil that is carried away.

It is not too early, the chairman points out, for farmers to begin thinking of crop adjustments to avoid unbalanced production — too much of one crop and not enough of another. Fortunately such adjustments fit into a program of soil and water conservation. With full bins and crops of wheat and corn, less land will be needed to produce these crops and more land can be devoted to the production of pasture and hay. These crops restore humus and improve the soil, which in turn are effective in controlling erosion.

The chairman suggests that farmers talk over their production-conservation problems and plans for 1949 with their county Agricultural Conservation Committee during the winter months.

1949 WOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED: The Government's 1949 wool-support program will provide a national average wool price to growers of slightly more than 42 cents a pound, grease basis, according to an announcement by the Department of Agriculture. This will approximate the 1948 support level.

Wool prices will be supported by purchases, and the program will apply to all types and grades of shorn and pulled wool.

The wool support program is mandatory under legislation which provides for price support to producers at the 1946 level and permits the Commodity Credit Corporation to sell its wool stocks without regard to parity prices for wool.

Through October 31 the Department since 1943 had purchased 1.5 billion pounds of wool and had sold 1.4 billion pounds. On that date, almost 133 million pounds of wool were on hand, including 10.5 million pounds of undelivered sales.

FAMILY FARM STILL CHIEF UNIT, REPORTS USDA: The commercial family farm is still the chief unit in the U. S. agricultural economy, reports the Department of Agriculture. In 1945, the year of the last farm census, these farms made up more than half of our farms, produced 70 percent of the total value of products, and provided homes for more than 58 percent of our farm population.

Large-scale farms - businesses usually large enough to be operated chiefly by hired labor - made up less than 2 percent of our farms, and less than 4 percent of the farm people lived on them; these farms accounted for almost 22 percent of the gross value of farm production.

At the other end of the scale, 26 percent of our farm population lived on $1\frac{1}{2}$ million small units - mostly part-time and residential - which contributed about 3 percent of the total value of all farm production. In addition, there were nearly a million small scale farms which contributed little to commercial agricultural production.

Many people have been alarmed about the tendency toward larger farms over the last quarter-century. Evidence indicates that the medium and large commercial family farms are competing successfully with larger units, but the almost one million small-scale farms - turning out products valued at from \$500 to \$1,200 a year - provide the "toughest problem."

A survey of 49,000 persons owning farm land, conducted by the Department's Bureau of Agricultural Economics, shows that about 87 percent of all farm land in 1945, was held by individuals and the remaining 13 percent was owned by corporations, partnerships, or public agencies.

GRASS AND EROSION: When it comes to holding the soil-controlling erosion and checking runoff, a good grass sod is hard to beat, says _____, chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

In New Jersey carefully controlled tests showed that 19,583 pounds of soil was lost on fallow land; 5,239 pounds from land seeded to corn year after year; 200 pounds from land where a 5-10-5 fertilizer was used; 441 pounds from land where corn, oats and clover were grown in rotation and 6 tons of manure were applied before the clover; 394 pounds from idle land grown up to weeds and clover; and only 17 pounds were lost from land in meadow.

These tests indicate, says the chairman, that if a farmer wants to keep his soil as well as his cows at home a good grass sod is about as good a way as any. Farmers with land subject to erosion should take this into consideration in planning conservation practices to be carried out under the 1949 Agricultural Conservation Program.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



1.956
42Ag 827
Cap. 2

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIALS
AUG 24 1949

January 21, 1949

LOVELAND LOOKS AT 1949: Despite lower prices and the prospects of a somewhat lower net income, 1949 should be another good year for American farmers "because on the whole the farmer has his house in order," Albert J. Loveland, Under Secretary of Agriculture, stated in a recent address.

The Under Secretary based his assumption on the prospect that "Aside from a somewhat greater uncertainty about the second half of the year, no significant reduction is expected in consumer incomes and domestic demand for farm products generally." He added, "So far as farmers are concerned, I see no reason to be any more worried than for business in general."

Among the favorable conditions affecting prospects for the coming year, the Under Secretary indicated that in recent years the "average" farmer has reduced his debts, built up his savings, accumulated needed machinery and equipment and improved his livestock and his land.

"Farmers have further reasons to be confident," he added, "because they have a program ... and a chance to round it out and improve it into the best farm program they've ever had."

ACP BUILDS _____ COUNTY: _____ County is richer and more productive because of the work done by farmers of the county who have cooperated in the Agricultural Conservation Program, says _____, Chairman of the county ACP committee.

Few people, besides the farmers themselves, realize all that has been done to protect and improve the soil and water resources of the county. Under the 1948 program, alone, _____ farmers carried out one or more conservation practices.

A total of (give figures for several leading practices in the county).

Through these practices farmers of the county have made material progress in controlling erosion and making the land more productive. The chairman points out that to the farmer this means that he can look to his land for continued production. To the man on Main Street it means a continued and stable business, a permanency which permits planning for the future. As the chairman explains, "It will not be like a mine that means an end of business when the coal or the ore gives out. The conservation program is getting farmers away from mining the soil."

Most (or a high percentage) of the farmers of _____ county are participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program. _____ out of every _____ (4 out of 5 or whatever it is) farmers in _____ county cooperated in 1948.

The assistance provided under the program was not very much for each farmer. The average for the county, according to the chairman, was _____ per farmer. But this little assistance served as a leaven that got the work started. It is estimated that this assistance was responsible for at least \$ _____ worth of conservation work in the county. This, says the chairman, still does not include the value of a continuing production in terms of a more permanent agriculture, increased business stability in the community and a stronger and better country.

CRAWLEY SEES GOALS AS PART OF WHOLE FARM PROGRAM:

In discussing 1949 production goals at the Pennsylvania Goals Conference held in Harrisburg, early in January, William B. Crawley, Assistant Administrator for Production in PMA, said that all parts of the nation's production program are important factors in the nation's success in meeting and exceeding its goals in recent years.

Research work of the Experiment Stations and Land-Grant Colleges is an important factor in estimating and meeting production goals because improved strains and new chemicals affect the yields of crops.

Very definitely, the speaker pointed out, conservation is a part of the goals picture. The condition of the soil is the ultimate limiting factor in production. The progress in conservation has been a major factor in the 51 percent per-acre increase in crop production over the 1923-32 period.

Price supports are important because they protect the farmer against the hazards of price collapse.

Elected farmer-committees play an important part in goal efforts because they administer the so-called "action" programs at local levels. They are close to their neighbor farmers. The better methods from research, the most effective conservation measures, and the price support programs are brought right to the farmers of the county through their own elected committees in every agricultural county and community.

Goals, he pointed out, are set up as a guide to farmers in their production plans. Instead of going ahead blindly producing without regard to needs, the goals provide the best estimate of what should be produced with the facilities available.

Goals and all the efforts and organization which support them, he pointed out, primarily benefit the consumer and make for a stronger and better country.

PER-ACRE YIELDS INCREASING: With an increasing population and a limited acreage of land, about the only hope for enough to eat in the future is to increase the per-acre yield of crops. Conservation of the soil and water resources of the country is helping to do that, says _____, Chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He points out that since the Agricultural Conservation Program was started in 1936, there has been a continuous increase in the per acre yield of crops and the "program played an important and substantial part in obtaining this increase."

The highest point reached was in 1948 when the per acre yield of all major crops was 51 percent more than the yields of these same crops in the 1923-32 period.

Here are the year by year per-acre yield increases as compared with the 1923-32 period:

1937 - 18 percent	1943 - 24 percent
1938 - 14 percent	1944 - 33 percent
1939 - 15 percent	1945 - 30 percent
1940 - 20 percent	1946 - 34 percent
1941 - 22 percent	1947 - 29 percent
1942 - 36 percent	1948 - 51 percent

The chairman explains that favorable weather, improved varieties, new chemicals for the control of insects and diseases, and a number of other factors have played a part in the increase but conservation of the soil made it possible for these to be reflected in higher production.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



February 3, 1949

ASSISTANCE NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION: Assistance to farmers as provided under the Agricultural Conservation Program is necessary to get the conservation job done in time, says _____, chairman of the _____ county Agricultural Conservation Committee.

The chairman quotes the following from a recent statement by Ralph S. Trigg, Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration and President of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

"My feelings are strong about this basic conservation problem... We in PMA know that direct Government assistance to farmers - incentive payments to cover part of the out-of-pocket costs - are absolutely essential if adequate national conservation is to be achieved before it is too late. Conservation research is important; high technical standards are a 'must' in any sound program; education and demonstration will provide the needed background of understanding; but without financial assistance -- to stimulate immediate action and provide the incentive for a great majority of our farmers to conserve now -- the job just won't be done, 'in our time.' There is so much at stake here, both for our farmers and for the Nation as a whole, that our Government and Congressional leaders, and the public as well, must be given a full understanding of the urgent need."

From the Secretary of Agriculture's annual report, Mr. _____ quotes the following in support of his belief that assistance is necessary to get the conservation job done in time:

"Getting conservation practices actually applied on the land requires more than a desire to carry out conservation farming. Almost a third of the Nation's farmers in 1944 were tenants who had only a temporary interest in the land they were farming. Many landlords are interested only in the immediate financial return from the farm, and their lack of interest is an obstacle in getting conservation farming applied to tenant-operated farms.

"Then, too, only a small proportion of farmers have the financial resources required to install the conservation measures needed to protect their land fully. Many farms are operated by producers whose incomes are not adequate to cover the running expenses of the farm, family living costs, and an amount necessary to install needed conservation practices. In 1944, about 50 percent of the farmers in the country had gross incomes, including the value of food raised on the farm, of less than \$1,500. On many farms with a much greater gross income, the net income is relatively small. It has been estimated that, in 1948, about a third of the farmers had gross incomes of less than \$1,000."

RESULTS OF BREAD MARGIN STUDY ANNOUNCED: Last year saw the reversal of the normal long-time trend in farm-to-retail margins for white flour and white bread, according to a recent Department of Agriculture study.

"Over a period of years," says the report, "the price farmers get for their wheat has tended to move in the same direction as the retail prices of flour and bread. However, between January and October 1948, the U.S. average local market price of wheat dropped 30 percent; the retail price of flour dropped 15 percent; but the retail price of bread rose 0.7 percent. The marketing margin for flour decreased 15 percent, while the marketing margin for bread rose 9 percent."

In October, 1948, the U.S. average retail price of a one-pound loaf of white bread was 14.5 cents. Of that amount, about 3 cents went to farmers ($2\frac{1}{2}$ cents for wheat and $\frac{1}{2}$ cent for other ingredients), 0.8 cent to the miller, 9.7 cents to the baker and retailer, and the other cent was divided among elevators, transportation and other agencies, and the nonfarm cost of ingredients other than wheat.

MCCORMACK SPEAKS ON 1949 FARM PROBLEMS: What is ahead in agriculture?

In answering this question for New York elected farmer-committeemen at the State PMA Conference held in New York City, January 26 and 27, Alvin V. McCormack, Director, Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch of PMA, said, "I don't think we are heading into any easy period. This abundant harvest of 1948 and the outlook for similar production of many crops in 1949 poses a number of serious problems. When the bins and cribs are full, what then?

He then asked this significant question - "When we have to start adjusting acreage, what crops can we turn to?"

"If the corn acreage needs to be reduced, what use will be made of the land taken out of corn? There's too many potatoes we say -- well, what other crop can we grow?

"Our machinery and our farming operations are geared to a certain economic unit of production - the size of the tractor - the layout of the land - labor - When we have to turn to some other crop - well, I think you can see the problem."

And then he added, "You can see the need for a National Program - a program in which you have a voice, but which considers the agricultural economy on a national basis."

He then asked what would happen to conservation if farm prices and income should be allowed to drop "way down below parity," and added that he thinks price supports and conservation are a part of the same program for the production of food and fiber - for the use of people.

These problems were discussed after he drew attention to the two divergent philosophies on the question of whether enough food can be produced to feed the ever-increasing population of the world - and the United States. On the one hand there is the tragic loss of land through erosion and depletion but on the other the increase in per-acre yields resulting from conservation and improved methods of combating insects and disease. He pointed out that per-acre yields for 1948 were up 51 percent from the 1923-32 period. But this increased production itself is bringing a whole host of new farm problems.

On this point he said, "This production problem is on us now. I don't know just how soon we'll be talking 'surpluses' again, but whether we use that term or something that means the same thing - we are going to have to face it.

"Certainly, everything that can be done will be done to dispose of excess production. The Secretary of Agriculture has committed the Department of Agriculture to that policy - a policy of 'putting a floor under consumption.' And I believe in it.

"But to think that we can get by without at least some adjustments in production, I think, is expecting too much. And to think we can get conservation without price supports to protect our farmers - well, you can't do it.

"Of course, conditions we can't see now may arise and all this may be needless worry, but I can't accept that as a reason for not being concerned about what seems to be plainly showing up. And I think we need to do more than be concerned. I think we should be ready."



FARM NEWS

RECEIVED

1,956

A249827

AUG 24 1951

February 11, 1949

PRICE SUPPORTS COVER 78,014,116 BUSHELLS OF STATE'S GRAIN: Farmers in North Dakota had put more than 78

million bushels of grain under Government loans and purchase agreements as of December 31, J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee, announced today. For the Nation as a whole, the total exceeds 528 million bushels, of which about 382 million are under loan and 146 million under purchase agreements. As of the same date, more than 6 million bushels of soybeans were under loan, and 4 million bushels under purchase agreements; about 1.2 million bushels of flaxseed were under loan, and 2.5 million under agreements.

December 31 was the closing date for loans and purchase agreements on wheat, oats, barley, rye, soybeans, dry edible peas, and flaxseed.

Corn loans and purchase agreements will be available until June 30.

National quantities of the various grains put under loans and purchase agreements through December 31 are as follows:

	<u>Loans</u> Bushels	<u>Purchase Agreements</u> Bushels
Wheat	235,337,879	108,012,154
Oats	14,204,310	8,391,739
Barley	28,638,344	17,317,283
Grain Sorghums	18,712,193	1,325,948
Corn	84,941,187	10,081,958
Rye	747,716	644,476
Totals	382,581,629	145,773,558

TOM JOYCE NAMED ASSISTANT ACP CHIEF: Thomas B. Joyce, formerly Chief of the Program Operations Section of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, has been appointed Assistant Director of the Branch. He fills the position made vacant by the recent retirement of Allen W. Manchester. Mr. Manchester has been designated as a "Collaborator" by the Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Brannan.

Mr. Joyce is a native of Massachusetts where he grew up and obtained his education. In 1930 he began his governmental career with the Census Bureau in Washington, D.C.

In 1933 he transferred to the Department of Agriculture starting in the Office of the Comptroller of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

He later became Chief of Program Operations in the Western Region Office of AAA. When the Field Service Branch was organized under the Production and Marketing Administration he was appointed Assistant Director of the Branch. In a later organization change he was made Chief of Program Operations in the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch.

He will serve with Alvin V. McCormack, recently appointed Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch.

Mr. Joyce and his family own, operate and live on a 300-acre dairy farm in Prince William County, Virginia, about 25 miles from Washington.

PMA COMMITTEES COOPERATING IN 'HAYLIFT OPERATION': Assistance by Production and Marketing Administration
farmer-committees has been offered to Governors of 10 states in the Western storm area, where livestock are threatened by blizzard conditions.

As instructed by Ralph S. Trigg, PMA Administrator, chairmen of State and county committees in the area are cooperating in obtaining information and in helping coordinate measures to effectively utilize all available feed supplies. States involved are Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Reports on losses of livestock are fragmentary and incomplete, but, according to the Weather Bureau, losses are reported heavy in sections of Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and some adjacent areas.

NO ALLOTMENTS, QUOTAS FOR '49 CORN CROP: No corn acreage allotments or marketing quotas will be in effect for the 1949 crop, according to a recent determination by the Department of Agriculture. The decision is based on current law which requires that the corn supply on October 1 must exceed "normal" supply by 20 percent before marketing quotas can be put into operation.

The probable corn supply for the marketing year October 1949 through September 1950 has been placed at 3.7 billion bushels. The estimated September 1950 supply is based on a carryover of 700 million bushels and a 1949 production of 3 billion bushels. Total disappearance of U.S. corn during the marketing year is estimated to be 3,180,000,000 bushels.

If production were reduced in 1949 enough to bring the total supply to the "reserve supply," as calculated under authorizing legislation, there would be a margin of only about 300 million bushels above the estimated disappearance of corn during the 1949-1950 marketing year. This would mean a small carryover or reserve at the end of that year.

The Department feels that adequate reserves should be maintained to help stabilize livestock, dairy, and poultry production at desirably high levels and to meet domestic and world needs. Both corn producers and industry representatives, formally asked to express their views, have been almost unanimous in the recommendation that no acreage allotments or marketing quotas be established for the 1949 corn crop.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



February 18, 1949

1.75
112A9827
cap 2 TRIGG REPORTS ON ACP: In his annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture, PMA Administrator Ralph S. Trigg calls attention to the broad application of conservation measures to farmland under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

The report says that approximately 3 million farmers, operating two-thirds of the Nation's farmland, and producing a substantially greater proportion of the Nation's food and fiber, carried out soil and water conservation practices under the 1947 program.

The report states that conservation practices were adapted to determined local needs. In areas of serious water erosion the practices included such measures as terraces, contour farming, sod waterways, erosion-control dams, the seeding of grasses and legumes, and the planting of trees. Where wind erosion was more serious, practices included stripcropping, ~~crop~~-residue management, and windbreaks.

On range land where watershed protection is a problem, they included construction of stock-water dams and development of springs and seeps to provide additional watering places for livestock in order to prevent destructive overgrazing of better watered parts of the range. In range areas the program also stressed the seeding of adapted grasses and natural reseeding through deferred grazing to help increase the vegetative cover needed to hold moisture and prevent runoff.

For more efficient use of irrigation water in the arid and semiarid sections of the country, the conservation practices included land leveling, lining of canals, construction of small irrigation reservoirs, and construction and installation of improved flumes, siphons, and weirs. In sections of heavy winter rain, cover crops were planted to protect the land after the harvest of one crop and before the planting of another.

To get the needed conservation work done, farmers were assisted with program funds. This assistance was in the form of materials, services and cost sharing, and averaged about half the out-of-pocket cost of the practices carried out.

This program was in operation in every agricultural county in the United States and it was administered in each of these counties by locally elected farmer-committees. Assisting these county committees were elected community committees, also composed of farmers.

1949 POTATO PRICE SUPPORTS SET: A single base support price for all eligible potatoes is the principal change in the 1949 Irish potato price support program. This change is made to encourage movement of the better grades of potatoes into consumption through regular commercial channels and to limit Government purchases to lower grades. In previous programs, the support price has been based on an established price for U. S. No. 1 grade potatoes, with certain lower grades supported at 50 percent of this price.

The single support price for the 1949 potato program in North Dakota ranges by months from \$1.20 per hundredweight in September 1949 to \$1.85 per hundredweight in March 1950. Nationally, the price support averages \$1.80 per hundredweight for the season for all potatoes which qualify as U.S. No. 2 grade, 1-7/8 minimum or better. This price is designed to assure support at 60 percent of parity and compares with last year's support prices of \$2.92 per hundredweight for U.S. No. 1 grade potatoes and \$1.46 per hundredweight for lower eligible grades.

Farmers have been asked to plant a national potato acreage of 1,938,000 acres during 1949 - about 200,000 less than the 1948 planted acreage.

The chief method of support under the 1949 program will be through purchase programs that provide for disposition of potatoes in various feed and non-feed outlets. As in 1947 and 1948, the program authorizes sales in consumer markets at prices below support levels. Commodity loans will be available on storable potatoes on an optional basis as a means of supplementing support operations and helping growers to hold potatoes in storage for marketing. The purchase program will also be supplemented by diversion and export operations.

As far as practicable, participating growers will market their potatoes under provisions of marketing agreements in order to help stabilize marketing, keep lower grades out of commercial channels, and assure consumers of better quality potatoes.

BUTTERFAT SUPPORT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED: Price supports for butterfat during 1949 will be carried out through offers to purchase wholesale butter when necessary, according to a recent announcement by the Department of Agriculture. The program is designed to assure that average prices to butter fat producers will not fall below 90 percent of parity, as required by current legislation.

The program will operate through Department offers to buy in any area butter of U.S. Grade A or higher at 59 cents per pound for delivery before September 1, and at 62 cents for delivery after that date. The Department's purchase prices for U. S. Grade B butter will be 2 cents lower in each period.

By encouraging normal commercial storage of butter in the spring and summer months, the program is expected to prevent a drastic decline in prices during the heavy producing period and a following sharp rise during the months of low production.

COMMODITY STORAGE NEEDS UNDER SURVEY: Future storage needs for agricultural commodities and the facilities required to meet these needs are being studied by the Production and Marketing Administration.

A working committee of storage and commodity specialists representing all sections of the country has been appointed by Administrator Ralph S. Trigg to consider storage facility needs by commodities, and places where facilities should be located, and any other questions involved. The basic purpose is to determine requirements for developing a sound over-all national storage program to meet the needs of the months and years ahead.

PASTURE NEARLY DOUBLED UNDER MODERATE GRAZING: "Under moderate grazing, pastures that are made up of brome, alfalfa, and ladion clover will produce much more growth," says J. E. Kasper, Chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. He pointed to a trial which was carried out on the Wisconsin Experiment Station in which such pastures under moderate grazing yielded 3.27 tons to the acre. Under close grazing, they yielded 1.89 tons to the acre.

Under moderate grazing, the cows were turned in to a pasture when the growth was from 10 to 12 inches high and were taken out when it was grazed down to 4 or 5 inches. Under close grazing, the cows were turned in when the grass was from 3 to 5 inches high and were turned out when it was eaten down to 1 to 1½ inches.

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.



February 25, 1949

MARCH 15 LAST DAY FOR FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE: March 15, 1949 is the last day on which producers in _____ county may apply for Federal Crop Insurance on their 1949 _____ crop, (wheat and/or flax) according to _____, Chairman of the County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

The Federal Crop Insurance Program offers insurance against loss of investment from causes that are beyond the producers control. Many farmers in _____ county have in the past had crop losses by virtue of drouth, hail, grasshoppers, and other natural hazards. Federal Crop Insurance offers protection against loss of investment. The closing date for signing an application for 1949 crop insurance is March 15, 1949. Information concerning the program may be obtained in the office of the Agricultural Conservation Association in _____, North Dakota, or from _____, or _____ who are acting as agents in the sale of Federal Crop Insurance.

A BALANCED PRODUCTION BUDGET: Budgeting our land to produce what is needed without waste is just as important as budgeting our income to buy the things we need without waste, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

"Land must be used efficiently in the ever-continuing need for food," he explains, "and this means balanced production as against surpluses of one crop and too little of another -- or too much now and too little later on. It is not too early now for farmers to plan the use of their productive farmland in the years immediately ahead."

The safety of the country requires the stock-piling of food and fiber for occasional years of reduced production, he points out. But, when bins and cribs are full, land producing unneeded crops should be diverted to the production of others which are needed and to conservation uses which will assure continued abundant production in the future.

The State Chairman points out that the first step in soil and water conservation is to get the "curative" type of conservation practices into use to check soil and water erosion.

The next step is to help farmers carry out conservation practices that would build into the soil resistance to erosion and depletion. This includes practices which add humus to the soil and build up productivity of the land.

The third step, Mr. Kasper says, is to use the land in the production of needed crops and not waste fertility on unneeded production.

These are the main features of the Agricultural Conservation and related programs now in effect, the chairman explains. It provides for budgeting the use of the land so that it is most effective in meeting current and future needs and for conserving our soil and water resources through conservation practices geared to balanced production.

WHEAT CROP PROSPECTS GOOD: Wheat crop prospects have improved during January, says the latest crop report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Precipitation has been 4 to 6 times normal in most of the Great Plains wheat area and relief came to the sections of Oklahoma and Texas which had suffered from earlier drought.

The winter wheat crop, which averages about 75 percent of the total wheat crop will also benefit from the abundant moisture. "Many farmers are watching this crop closely," says J. E. Kasper, the chairman of the North Dakota Production and Marketing Administration Committee. "If we have another big wheat crop it will add to the grain storage problem." Many farmers already are planning to provide additional storage to be ready for whatever lies ahead, the chairman states.

SEED NEEDS TO BE DETERMINED: A Nation-wide survey to find out how much seed will be required to make conservation plantings for the next five years is being conducted by the Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Information will be gathered on the requirements of 27 annual and biennial legumes, 47 annual and perennial grasses, 8 trees and shrubs, and certain special crops for specific areas.

In making their estimates, the State and county ACP committees are asked to assume that there will be a plentiful supply of adapted seed, that supporting educational work will keep pace and that the necessary support of the Agricultural Conservation Program will be available to farmers.

Other factors which State committees will consider in making their estimates include: the relation of farm prices to parity during the five-year period, the expected demand for farm products and adjustments in acreages of various crops that may have to be made. Special attention will be given to the adjustments that may have to be made in acreages of corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, peanuts, tobacco and rice.

The information is being gathered, says J. E. Kasper, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, to help in developing programs which will lead to the production of sufficient seed to meet the needs of the country and to support conservation programs when less land is used for crop production.

NET '48 FARM INCOME DOWN: For the first time in 10 years, farmers' net income dropped in 1948, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports.

While gross farm income rose to a new high, production expenses increased. Prices farmers had to pay for farm living and maintenance were the highest on record, and in terms of what it would buy, net income from farming of all persons living on farms was the lowest since 1941. The net income decline to 17.4 billion dollars was 2 percent below 1947 figures.

Assets of American Agriculture totaled about 130 billion dollars at the beginning of 1949, with much of the increase from the previous year accounted for by the increased valuation of farm real estate, machinery, and motor vehicles. Crops stored on and off farms dropped in value. For the first time since before the war, farmers' cash and bank deposits apparently went down in 1948. Although the change was small and partly offset by increased investments in U. S. savings bonds, the report indicates that it may be the start of a downward trend in farmers' holdings of liquid financial assets because farm costs are increasing faster than farm income.
